

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DHAHRA 00491 171442Z POSS DUPE
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01
COME-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
OMB-01 PM-05 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00
ACDA-12 PA-02 /113 W
-----046357 171543Z /72/10

O 160902Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6173
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 0491

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT, PARA TWO)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, SA
SUBJECT: ANOTHER OIL/GAS FIRE IN THE ABQAIQ AREA

REF: (A) DHAHRAN 0486, (B) DHAHRAN 0488

1. ARAMCO CHAIRMAN KELBERER HAS PROVIDED ME WITH THE TEXT OF
A STATEMENT CLEARED BY OIL MINISTER YAMANI FOR RELEASE
TO THE PRESS BY ARAMCO'S NEW YORK OFFICE. YAMANI LEFT
DHAHRAN EVENING APRIL 15 AFTER A HELICOPTER TOUR OF
THE FIRE SITE.

2. THE STATEMENT, WHICH MATCHES ALL THE REPORTS WE HAVE
OBTAINED THUS FAR FROM ARAMCO AND OTHER SOURCES, READS AS
FOLLOWS: "AN EXPLOSION AND FIRE OCCURRED EARLY THIS MORNING
AT A GAS-OIL SEPARATOR PLANT (GOSP) LOCATED 40 KILOMETERS
SOUTHWEST OF DHAHRAN. TWO SAUDIS AND ONE PLIISTANI WERE
KILLED IN THE MISHAP. THE GOSP, WHICH WAS ALMOST TOTALLY
DESTROYED, WAS ONE OF THREE WHICH SUPPLY FUEL GAS TO
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UTILITIES AND SOME INDUSTRIAL PLANTS IN THE DAMMAM"AL-KHOBAR
AREA. OTHER GOSPS WERE IMMEDIATELY SWITCHED OVER TO
SUPPLY FUEL GAS. THERE WAS NO DISRUPTION OF ELECTRIC POWER
SERVICE OR CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION. THE MISHAP WILL HAVE NO
AFFECT ON ARAMCO'S PRODUCTION OF CRUDE. JUST BEFORE THE
EXPLOSION, GOSP PERSONNEL DETECTED A GAS LEAK IN AN OVERHEAD
PIPEWAY. BEFORE THEY COULD TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION THE GAS

ACCUMULATION IN THE VICINITY OF THE PLANT FLARES IGNITED.
THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED AT APPROXIMATELY 1:45 A.M. THE
GOSP WAS ONE OF 54 BEING OPERATED BY ARAMCO." BUSHNELL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OILS, PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, INDUSTRY, ENERGY, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, FIRES, GASES, OIL FIELDS, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS
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Draft Date: 16 apr 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Subject: ANOTHER OIL/GAS FIRE IN THE ABQAIQ AREA
TAGS: ENRG, SA, ARAMCO, (YAMANI, AHMAD ZAKI), (KELBERER, JOHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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